

Koalib language

Koalib (also called **Kwalib**, **Abri**, **Lgalige**, **Nirere** and **Rere**) is a Niger–Congo language in the Heiban family spoken in the Nuba Mountains of southern Sudan.^[3] The Koalib Nuba, Turum and Umm Heitan ethnic groups speak this language.

Contents

Dialects and locations

Writing system

Publications

Footnotes

External links

Dialects and locations

Koalib dialects and locations (*Ethnologue*, 22nd edition):

- *Nginyukwur* dialect: Hadra, Nyukwur, and Umm Heitan
- *Ngirere* dialect: Abri area
- *Ngunduna* dialect: Koalib hills area
- *Nguqwurang* dialect: Turum and Umm Berumbita

Writing system

It is written using the Latin script,^[3] but includes some unusual letters. It shares a tailed R (Ṛ) with other Sudanese languages, and uses a letter resembling the at sign (@) for transcribing the letter ع in Arabic loanwords. The Unicode Standard includes R WITH TAIL at code points U+027D (lowercase) and U+2C64 (uppercase), but the Unicode Consortium declined to encode the at sign separately as an orthographic letter.^[4]

SIL International maintains a registry of Private Use Area code points in which U+F247 represents LATIN SMALL LETTER AT, and U+F248 LATIN CAPITAL LETTER AT.^[5] However, they have marked this PUA representation as deprecated since September 2014, and the current version of their corporate PUA character assignments package recommends using U+24D0 Ⓐ CIRCLED LATIN SMALL LETTER A and U+24B6 Ⓐ CIRCLED LATIN CAPITAL LETTER A for that letter instead.^[4]

Publications

The New Testament was published in Koalib in 1967.

Koalib	
Rere	
Native to	Sudan
Region	Nuba Hills
Ethnicity	Koalib, Turum, Umm Heitan
Native speakers	(44,000 cited 1984) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Talodi–Heiban<ul style="list-style-type: none">Heiban<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central Heiban<ul style="list-style-type: none">Koalib</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kib
Glottolog	koal1240 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/koal1240) ^[2]



Capital and small at letters in Doulos SIL typeface

Footnotes

1. Koalib (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/kib/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Koalib-Rere" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/koal1240>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Ethnologue report (http://www.ethnologue.com/show_language.asp?code=kib) for language code: kib, retrieved on Apr. 12, 2010.
4. Constable, Peter, and Lorna A. Priest (January 17, 2019) *SIL Corporate PUA Assignments 5.2a* (http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=SILPUAassignments). SIL International (<http://www.sil.org/>). pp. 59-60. Retrieved on July 20, 2020.
5. Charis SIL (http://scripts.sil.org/cms/scripts/page.php?site_id=nrsi&item_id=CharisSIL_Technical) font documentation, retrieved on Apr. 12, 2010.

External links

- Rere Koalib basic lexicon at the Global Lexicostatistical Database (<http://starling.rinet.ru/cgi-bin/response.cgi?root=new100&morpho=0&basename=new100\krd\hei&first=0>)

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